

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1177**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Fong and Hill  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Jones)**

February 27, 2009

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An act relating to homelessness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1177, as introduced, Fong. Homelessness: Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Under existing law, several agencies have prescribed responsibilities relating to homeless persons.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would create the Interagency Council on Homelessness for the purposes of reducing the duplication of efforts and the costs of homelessness and redirecting resources to more effective approaches, developing a more integrated system, and eliminating fragmentation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The economic crisis is causing higher rates of homelessness,
- 4 particularly among families with children, the fastest-growing
- 5 segment of people experiencing homelessness.

1 (b) Before the economic crisis, California faced the largest  
2 homeless population and the largest ratio of homeless persons per  
3 resident in the nation.

4 (c) There are several costs to the state to manage homelessness,  
5 including, but not limited to, incarceration, shelters, medical costs,  
6 and foster care.

7 (d) At least nine state agencies are affected by homelessness,  
8 resulting in a fragmented approach. These agencies are the  
9 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the State Department  
10 of Health Care Services, the State Department of Mental Health,  
11 the State Department of Social Services, the Department of  
12 Housing and Community Development, the State Department of  
13 Education, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the State  
14 Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, and the California  
15 Housing Finance Agency.

16 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation  
17 that would create the Interagency Council on Homelessness for  
18 the purposes of reducing the duplication of efforts and the costs  
19 of homelessness and redirecting resources to more effective  
20 approaches, developing a more integrated system, and eliminating  
21 fragmentation.